

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following is the status of the claims of the above-captioned application, as amended.

Claims 1-17 (Cancelled.)

Claim 18. (Currently amended) A coated granule comprising a core and a coating, wherein the core comprises a uniform mixture of a detergent enzyme having an alkaline pH activity optimum, and 2025% w/w or more of acidic buffer component, wherein said acidic buffer component has a pH of 1 to below 7 when measured as a 10 % aqueous solution and a pK_a in the range of 4 to 9 and is selected from the group consisting of NaH₂PO₄, KH₂PO₄ and Na₂H-citrate, wherein the detergent enzyme is selected from the group consisting of oxidoreductases, transferases, hydrolases, lyases, isomerases and ligases, wherein the coating comprises said acidic buffer component, and wherein the amount of acidic buffer component present in the core is more than 20% of the total amount of acidic buffer component present in the granule.

Claim 19. (Previously presented) The granule according to claim 18, wherein the pH of the acidic buffer component is 3 to below 7.

Claim 20. (Previously presented) The granule according to claim 18, wherein the pK_a of the acidic buffer component is 5 to 7.

Claim 21-22. (Cancelled)

Claim 23. (Currently amended) The granule according to claim 2418, wherein the acidic buffer component in the core and in the coating are different.

Claim 24. (Currently amended) The granule according to claim 2418, wherein the acidic buffer component in the core has a pH of 4 to below 7 and the acidic buffer component in the coating has a pH of 1 to 5.

Claim 25. (Cancelled)

Claim 26. (Previously presented) A granule according to claim 18 comprising at least 55% w/w of acidic buffer component in the core.

Claim 27-28. (Canceled)

Claim 29. (Previously presented) A detergent composition comprising a granule of claim 18.

Claim 30. (Currently amended) A process for preparing granules of claim 18 comprising:
preparing a core comprising a uniform mixture of a detergent enzyme having an alkaline pH activity optimum, and 20% w/w or more of acidic buffer component, wherein said acidic buffer component has a pH of 1 to below 7 when measured as a 10% aqueous solution and a pK_a in the range of 4 to 9 and is selected from the group consisting of NaH₂PO₄, KH₂PO₄ and Na₂H-citrate, wherein the detergent enzyme is selected from the group consisting of oxidoreductases, transferases, hydrolases, lyases, isomerases and ligases; and
coating the core with a coating material which comprises the acidic buffer component.

Claim 31. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 30, wherein the granule is prepared in a mixer, a fluid bed, a fluidized spray dryer, a spray fluidizer, a spray dryer or an extruder.

Claim 32. (Currently amended) A coated granule comprising a core comprising a uniform mixture of a detergent enzyme having an alkaline pH activity optimum, and 50% w/w or more of acidic buffer component, wherein said acidic buffer component has a pH of 1 to below 7 when measured as a 10% aqueous solution and a pK_a in the range of 4 to 9 and is selected from the group consisting of NaH₂PO₄, KH₂PO₄ and Na₂H-citrate, wherein the detergent enzyme is selected from the group consisting of oxidoreductases, transferases, hydrolases, lyases, isomerases and ligases, and a coating comprising said acidic buffer component wherein the amount of acidic buffer component present in the core is more than 20% of the total amount of acidic buffer component present in the granule..

Claim 33. (Previously presented) A granule in accordance with claim 32, wherein the pH of the acidic buffer component is 3 to below 7.

Claim 34. (Previously presented) A granule in accordance with claim 32, wherein the pK_a of the acidic buffer component is 5 to 7.

Claim 35. (Previously presented) A granule in accordance with claim 32, further comprising an acidic buffer component in the coating.

Claim 36-40. (Cancelled)

Claim 41. (New) The granule according to claim 18, wherein the acidic buffer component in the core and in the coating consists of NaH_2PO_4 .

Claim 42. (New) The granule according to claim 18, wherein the acidic buffer component in the core and in the coating consists of KH_2PO_4 .

Claim 43. (New) The granule according to claim 18, wherein the acidic buffer component in the core and in the coating consists of $\text{Na}_2\text{H}\text{-citrate}$.

Claim 44. (New) The granule according to claim 18, wherein the acidic buffer component in the core and in the coating comprises NaH_2PO_4 .

Claim 45. (New) The granule according to claim 18, wherein the acidic buffer component in the core and in the coating comprises KH_2PO_4 .

Claim 46. (New) The granule according to claim 18, wherein the acidic buffer component in the core and in the coating comprises $\text{Na}_2\text{H}\text{-citrate}$.

Claim 47 (New) The granule according to claim 18, wherein the acidic buffer component in the core and in the coating are selected from the group consisting of NaH_2PO_4 and KH_2PO_4 .

Claim 48 (New) The granule according to claim 18, wherein the acidic buffer component in the core and in the coating are selected from the group consisting of NaH_2PO_4 and $\text{Na}_2\text{H}\text{-citrate}$.

Claim 49 (New) The granule according to claim 18, wherein the acidic buffer component in the core and in the coating are selected from the group consisting of NaH_2PO_4 and KH_2PO_4 .

Claim 50 (New). The granule according to claim 18, wherein the acidic buffer component in the core and in the coating are the same.

Claim 51 (New). The granule according to claim 18, wherein the detergent enzyme is a protease.

Claim 51 (New). The granule according to claim 18, wherein the detergent enzyme is an alpha-amylase.